

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Peter Troxell's achievements and accomplishments. He has shown an outstanding commitment to both KUSP and the community of Santa Cruz during his decade as the station manager, and his service will be greatly missed. Running a non-profit, independent radio station is not an easy task, but through his hard work and dedication, Peter has guaranteed that we will not lose this valuable resource. I join the County of Santa Cruz, and friends and family in honoring this truly commendable man and all of his achievements at KUSP.

TRIBUTE TO LOUISE MOONEY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. Louise Mooney of Glenwood Springs, Colorado volunteers countless hours to her local community, helping adults and children learn to read. She routinely spends time with people who are sick or injured and frequently helps out her neighbors who are in need. Louise is a valued member of her community, and I am honored to pay tribute to her here today.

Louise has dedicated her life to helping others. As a young mother, Louise answered a crisis line at Valley View Hospital and volunteered at the area's first hospice. When her children grew up, Louise joined the Peace Corps, where she helped the people of the Philippines for two years. Today, Louise teaches adults to read and write as a tutor for Literacy Outreach. She volunteers at Sopris Elementary School, where she reads to the kids in order to help them improve their reading and writing skills. Louise also volunteers at the Frontier Historical Museum. For her efforts and her impressive dedication to her community, Louise was recently awarded the Garfield County Humanitarian Service Award, a recognition she has certainly earned.

Mr. Speaker, Louise Mooney is an exemplary neighbor and a great citizen. Throughout her life, she has sought out opportunities to give back to her community. Her example of determination and hard work are an inspiration to us all, and I am honored to join with my colleagues today in thanking Louise for her service. Thank you, Louise. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WRITE TO STATE DEPARTMENT: WITHDRAW OFFENSIVE TERRORISM VIDEO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have co-sponsored with the gentleman from Indiana a recent letter to the State Department asking them to withdraw the offensive video "Terrorism: A War Without Borders," which characterized all Sikhs as terrorists. This is offensive and against America's principles. As a

minority, I take special offense at this kind of characterization of any minority group.

While the video may have had some usefulness in reminding Americans what they can do to help combat the threat of terrorism, its stereotyping of Sikhs as terrorists is unacceptable.

Let me quote from the letter, Mr. Speaker: "This video should be corrected or withdrawn immediately. The United States government should not be in the business of spreading inaccurate information, especially when that information is offensive to a hard-working, honorable people and serves only to promote the interests of a foreign regime."

The Sikhs are hard-working people who have been involved in every aspect of American life. One Sikh American, Dalip Singh Saund, even served in the U.S. Congress. Back in the subcontinent, they are one of many national groups, along with predominantly Christian Nagas, Kashmiris, and others struggling for their sovereignty and independence from India, which is run by militant Hindu nationalists bent on imposing Hinduism on all aspects of Indian life. The Sikh leadership has committed to carrying out this struggle by peaceful, democratic, nonviolent means. Yet it is for seeking their freedom at all that India labels them "terrorists." In fact, shortly after India's independence Prime Minister Nehru issued a directive calling Sikhs a "criminal class" and ordering police to keep special track of them, despite the fact that the Sikhs, who were less than two percent of the population, gave the majority of the sacrifices in India's freedom struggle. I am very distressed to see the government of the United States repeating this offensive description.

That is why withdrawing this video is so important, Mr. Speaker. There were more than 300 cases of hate crimes or actions against Sikhs in the wake of September 11, 2001. For the United States to give support in an official production of the government to the characterization of all Sikhs as terrorists merely encourages more of this kind of hate against loyal, hard-working, honest Americans. It also unfairly supports the position of a repressive regime that has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since the Golden Temple attack of June 1984, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and human rights groups, as well as over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, over 85,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and others. It encourages a government that admits to holding 52,268 Sikh political prisoners and holds tens of thousands of other minorities as political prisoners as well, according to Amnesty International.

Mr. Speaker, we should not be endorsing the party line of such a repressive regime. Instead, we should be working to support freedom by stopping U.S. aid to India until all people there enjoy full and equal human rights and by supporting self-determination for the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Kashmiris, the Nagas, and everyone seeking freedom. That is the democratic way and it is the only way to bring real peace and freedom from terrorism to everyone in South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the letter from Members of Congress to Secretary Powell into the RECORD at this time for the information of my colleagues.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, September 18, 2003.

Hon. COLIN POWELL,
Secretary of State,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY POWELL: As Members of the United States Congress, we are very concerned about your Department's video, "War Without Borders." Your depiction of the Sikhs is discriminatory, unfair, and offensive.

The video is offensive to Sikhs around the world and to all people who support non-discrimination and freedom. The video inaccurately broadly labels all of the world's 25 million Sikhs—500,000 of whom live in the United States—as terrorists. This is offensive and inaccurate.

The video's description of the June 1984 Indian military attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the most sacred of Sikh shrines, misrepresents the circumstances of that unfortunate incident. Every terrorist act cited in the video is described as either the work of an individual or a group of a certain nationality or a group, such as Al Qaeda or the like, which honorably refrains from labelling an entire people as terrorists. Yet with the Sikhs it takes a different approach, referring to the terrorists merely as "Sikhs," thus implicitly creating the impression that all Sikhs are terrorists. But there were no terrorists in the Golden Temple complex. The book Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism reprints letters showing conclusively that India planned this attack in order to kill Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and other Sikh leaders who spoke out for a sovereign Sikh state. Labelling all Sikhs who support an independent, sovereign Khalistan as terrorists is the propaganda line of the repressive Indian regime. We share your desire to have good relations with India, but good relations must not trump truth.

India is a repressive government. Over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered by the Indian government since the Golden Temple attack, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and human rights groups and reported in *The Politics of Genocide* by Inderjit Singh Jaijee. According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), the Indian government admits to holding 52,268 political prisoners under the brutal, repressive "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA), which expired in 1995. In addition, India has murdered over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, over 85,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and others. An Indian Cabinet minister said that everyone who lives in India must either be a Hindu or be subservient to Hinduism.

This video should be corrected or withdrawn immediately. The United States government should not be in the business of spreading inaccurate information, especially when that information is offensive to a hard-working, honorable people and serves only to promote the interests of a foreign regime.

Sincerely,

DAN BURTON.
ED TOWNS.
WALLY HERGER.

MAYOR KALISZ SPEAKS WISELY ON FISHING REGULATIONS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, we face a very difficult situation regarding the